

REMARKS

The Examiner's reconsideration of the application is urged in view of the amendments above and comments which follow.

Turning first to numbered sections 1-3 of the Office Action, while the rejection was with respect to dependent claim 2, each of the dependent claims actually has the same error, and each of the dependent claims has therefore been similarly corrected. There is now proper correspondence between the dependent claims and the independent claims.

The Examiner then proceeds to reject the claims as either anticipated by, or obvious over, the prior art, with Dearing published U.S. Application No. U.S. 2002-0183882 being cited as the primary reference, and, insofar as appropriate here, Bastian U.S. Patents Nos. 650,225 being cited as a secondary reference. Reconsideration is requested.

The Dearing reference is directed to a system where a micro warehouse, as Dearing identifies it, is provided with a series of locations or products, as illustrated in Figure 6. The Examiner points to paragraph 57 of Dearing for the concept of an inventory message which the Examiner equates to the aging indicator of the present invention. However, in Dearing, the inventory message is just that - a message that is in a central location so that a user can perform various tasks, such as removing an old product and replacing it. Nothing in Dearing suggests an aging indicator separately associated with each product compartment as in the present invention.

Bastian is directed to an inventory system where a plurality of inventory locations can be monitored in various manners. The Examiner points to Figure 7 of Bastian, which is directed to a wireless module for use with each of the individual inventory locations for various purposes. When the Examiner refers to Bastian, the Examiner states that Bastian discloses "various visual indicators, for example, in Figure 7". That, however, is incorrect. In Figure 7, Bastian discloses a single display 135 and a series of

buttons 134 and 136 which can be used for various purposes. There is only a single display, however, not a plurality.

In order to make the nature of the present invention clear, claim 1 has been amended to properly identify a separate aging indicator associated with each product compartment. As shown in the drawings of the present invention and described in the specification, the aging indicator is item 26, and item 26, in the preferred form of the invention, has three indicator lights, each light indicating a different status of the product located in the associated compartment.

Claim 1, it is submitted, clearly distinguishes from Dearing, while having the facility to record aging of a product, has no aging indicator separately associated with each product compartment. Dearing also has no aging indicator having multiple product condition signals. It is therefore submitted that claim 1, as amended, distinguishes from and is allowable over, Dearing.

When considering Bastian, Bastian does not add anything further to Dearing in that regard. Bastian, as noted above, has a single display, and discloses nothing concerning an indicator, at each product compartment, having multiple product condition signals. It is therefore submitted that even if the teachings of Dearing and Bastian were combined, claim 1 is allowable over those teachings.

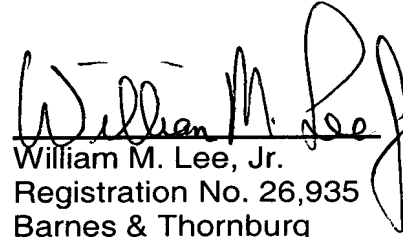
As claims 2-10 depend from claim 1, those claims are submitted to be allowable, as well, at least by virtue of their dependencies.

Turning next to independent claim 11, claim 11 is more narrowly directed and refers to three displays. The comments and arguments above in relation to the references are equally applicable here, and it is submitted that claim 11, as amended, is allowable over the prior art. As claims 12-18 depend from claim 11, those claims are submitted to be allowable, as well.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner's further and favorable reconsideration of the application is urged.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Lee, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

William M. Lee, Jr.
Registration No. 26,935
Barnes & Thornburg
P.O. Box 2786
Chicago, Illinois 60690-2786
(312) 214-4800
(312) 759-5646 (fax)